



New Mexico Federal Lands Council

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November 28, 2017

United State Representative Paul Gosar
2057 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

United States Representative Jason Lewis
418 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

United States Representative Collin Peterson
2204 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

To whom it may concern:

On behalf of the New Mexico Federal Land Council, representing federal allotment owners, we would like to express our support for H.R. 3905.

On January 5, 2017, the Obama administration proposed a massive land withdrawal from mineral development in northern Minnesota, immediately placing of approximately 245,000 acres off limits to development, potentially for 20 years or more. This action resulted in the real world consequences of putting 17,000 jobs and \$2.5 billion for the State's economy at risk. This could potentially decimate local economies and stifle job creations for decades, due to one last minute decision. Part of these lands are also school trust fund lands, leading to a funding detriment for K-12 students statewide. Our membership is concerned that if this issue is not dealt with that it would set a dangerous precedent for the rest of the county if not overturned. Congress has authorized mining in the forest by law two different times, and the 1986 Forest Service and 2004 Forest Plans both concluded mining is "a desired condition" in the Superior National Forest.

The MINER Act will help restore mineral rights to Minnesota and take steps to safeguard the taking of mineral rights in the future from other states.

We believe it is important for Minnesotans to have a say in policies affecting their land, as our members believe the same thing about their land in New Mexico. We are expressing our support in ensure industry and economic growth is supported in northern Minnesota, as well as across the county.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Don L. Lee".

Don L. (Bebo) Lee
President
New Mexico Federal Lands Council
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